

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7710

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT BB

SUBJ: ELECTION OF PARTY OFFICERS

1. MINISTER OF EDUCATION ERSKINE SANDIFORD WAS ELECTED PRESIDENT OF THE RULING DEMOCRATIC LABOUR PARTY FOR 1974-1975 AT THE PARTY'S ANNUAL CONFERENCE HELD ON AUGUST 25 AND 31 WITH THE ELECTION OF OFFICERS ON THE LATTER DAY. SANDIFORD'S PRINCIPAL RIVALS, MINISTER OF HEALTH AND WELFARE DR. RAMESES CADDLE AND PARLIAMENTARIAN AND FORMER MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE DACOSTA EDWARDS, WITHDREW FROM THE RACE BEFORE THE BALLOTING BEGAN. SANDIFORD REPLACED PM ERROL BARROW, WHO WAS INELIGIBLE TO BE LEADER OF THE DLP FOR THIS COMING TERM.

2. THE DLP WHICH HAS THREE VICE PRESIDENTIAL POSTS ELECTED EDWARDS, MINISTER OF TRADE SENATOR BRANFORD TAITT, AND HIGH COMMISSIONER TO BRITAIN CAMERON TUDOR TO THESE POSTS. SENATOR C. LEROY BRATHWAITE, PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY TO THE PRIME MINISTER, WAS ELECTED SECRETARY OF THE DLP. HARCOURT MILLER WAS RE-ELECTED TREASURER FOR HIS 18TH TERM.

3. PM BARROW, IN AN ATTEMPT TO DOWNPLAY THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE CONTEST FOR PRESIDENT OF DLP, TOLD THE DELEGATES AT THE MORNING SESSION BEFORE THE ELECTION THAT THE PARTY PRESIDENT WAS ONLY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE VARIOUS PARTY COMMITTEES AND THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OFFICE WAS NOT A SPRINGBOARD TO PM'S OFFICE. HE SAID A PM HAD

TO BE A MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FIRST AND THEN HAD TO COMMAND THE SUPPORT OF A MAJORITY OF HIS ELECTED PARTY COLLEAGUES.

4. THE CONFERENCE ALSO UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED A RESOLUTION MOVED BY EDWARDS EXPRESSING CONFIDENCE IN SENATOR TAITT, WHO HAS COME IN FOR A GREAT DEAL OF CRITICISM LATELY OVER THE ECONOMY, FOR THE FINE JOB THAT HE HAD DONE IN THE DIFFICULT JOB OF MINISTER OF TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE.

5. COMMENT: THE ELECTION OF 37 YEARS OLD SANDIFORD TO THE POST OF PRESIDENT OF THE DLP FOR 1974-75 IS UNDERSTOOD BY LOCAL POLITICAL OBSERVERS TO MEAN THAT THE DLP WILL CONTINUE ITS BASICALLY MIDDLE CLASS AND PROFESSIONAL-MINDED MODERATE ORIENTATION. THE ELECTION OF THE MORE LEFT-OF-CENTER DR. CADDLE WOULD HAVE PROBABLY GIVEN THE PARTY A MORE STRONGLY SOCIALIST ORIENTATION.
SIMMS

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